



NETWORKS AND INFORMATION
INTEGRATION

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

6000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-6000

JUL 21 2010

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Senate Report 111-35 accompanying the Defense Appropriations Act for FY10 requested the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration/DoD Chief Information Officer (ASD(NII)/DoD CIO) submit recommendations for closing the networked communications capability gap. The report's recommendations included leveraging and enhancing capabilities resident in legacy and commercially available radios and waveforms.

The Department continues to maintain support for future tactical radio programs of record (PORs), the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T), and the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS). These remain the future cornerstones to implementing a dynamic, scalable, on-the-move (OTM) network that will enable the warfighter to see first, act first, and win decisively. However, until these programs are fully fielded, current wartime operations require communications upgrades and enhancements that leverage commercial technologies and solutions to fill immediate capability gaps.

Many of these commercial technologies are interoperable and complimentary with our objective communications architecture. For example, commercial radios with Internet Protocol (IP) based waveforms are being procured and fielded to meet urgent operational needs, also they have the ability to interface with WIN-T and allow tactical edge users to access the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN). This "plug and play" capability allows the Department to leverage the best that industry offers in the near term while creating a modernization path to the future programs.

The Department is addressing the networked capability gaps by capitalizing on existing investments, maintaining backwards compatibility, and prioritizing open architectures and common interfaces and standards. The ability to provide critical operational capabilities while still maintaining an integrated tactical network requires that each investment be thoroughly scrutinized through systems engineering, integration, testing, and cost reviews. Commercial products are often used to provide solutions for


immediate operational needs; however, these products may not fully meet DoD requirements, be compliant with all DoD standards, and be proprietary.

In these instances, the Department accepts limitations that may include mission specific solutions, interoperability challenges, additional network management overhead, and less than full logistics support. However, these limitations do not compromise combat readiness. Instead, the Department balances the need to be agile in providing near term solutions to meeting capability gaps and managing an already complex communications architecture environment.


The Department continues to evaluate emerging technologies developed by industry and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) such as programs MainGate and Wireless Network After Next. We are evaluating these technologies to determine if they can provide capabilities which will transition to PORs and support DoD's overarching network construct with remaining focused on interoperability, security considerations, and best value.

Investment in network modernization is necessary and clarity of priorities for that investment is paramount to the successful delivery of improved network capability in a measured, affordable manner. Acquisition decisions based on aligning multiple ongoing tactical network PORs, along with capitalizing on available commercial developmental work, will target opportunities to integrate legacy and commercially available radios and waveforms as needed to fill immediate warfighter capability requirements.

The Department appreciates your interest in this critical area for deployed warfighters and looks forward to your continued support in providing this tactical communications capability. A similar letter is being provided to the other defense oversight committees.


Cheryl J. Roby
Acting

cc:
The Honorable CW Bill Young
Ranking Member





NETWORKS AND INFORMATION
INTEGRATION

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

8000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-6000

JUL 21 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Senate Report 111-35 accompanying the Defense Appropriations Act for FY10 requested the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration/DoD Chief Information Officer (ASD(NII)/DoD CIO) submit recommendations for closing the networked communications capability gap. The report's recommendations included leveraging and enhancing capabilities resident in legacy and commercially available radios and waveforms.

The Department continues to maintain support for future tactical radio programs of record (PORs), the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T), and the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS). These remain the future cornerstones to implementing a dynamic, scalable, on-the-move (OTM) network that will enable the warfighter to see first, act first, and win decisively. However, until these programs are fully fielded, current wartime operations require communications upgrades and enhancements that leverage commercial technologies and solutions to fill immediate capability gaps.

Many of these commercial technologies are interoperable and complimentary with our objective communications architecture. For example, commercial radios with Internet Protocol (IP) based waveforms are being procured and fielded to meet urgent operational needs, also they have the ability to interface with WIN-T and allow tactical edge users to access the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN). This "plug and play" capability allows the Department to leverage the best that industry offers in the near term while creating a modernization path to the future programs.

The Department is addressing the networked capability gaps by capitalizing on existing investments, maintaining backwards compatibility, and prioritizing open architectures and common interfaces and standards. The ability to provide critical operational capabilities while still maintaining an integrated tactical network requires that each investment be thoroughly scrutinized through systems engineering, integration, testing, and cost reviews. Commercial products are often used to provide solutions for

immediate operational needs; however, these products may not fully meet DoD requirements, be compliant with all DoD standards, and be proprietary.

In these instances, the Department accepts limitations that may include mission specific solutions, interoperability challenges, additional network management overhead, and less than full logistics support. However, these limitations do not compromise combat readiness. Instead, the Department balances the need to be agile in providing near term solutions to meeting capability gaps and managing an already complex communications architecture environment.

The Department continues to evaluate emerging technologies developed by industry and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) such as programs Mainingate and Wireless Network After Next. We are evaluating these technologies to determine if they can provide capabilities which will transition to PORs and support DoD's overarching network construct with remaining focused on interoperability, security considerations, and best value.

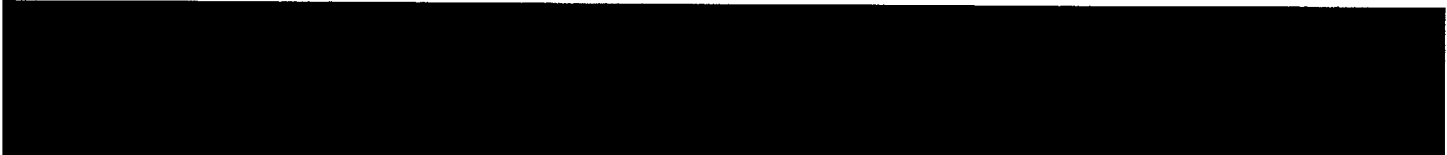
Investment in network modernization is necessary and clarity of priorities for that investment is paramount to the successful delivery of improved network capability in a measured, affordable manner. Acquisition decisions based on aligning multiple ongoing tactical network PORs, along with capitalizing on available commercial developmental work, will target opportunities to integrate legacy and commercially available radios and waveforms as needed to fill immediate warfighter capability requirements.

The Department appreciates your interest in this critical area for deployed warfighters and looks forward to your continued support in providing this tactical communications capability. A similar letter is being provided to the other defense oversight committees.



Cheryl J. Roby
Acting

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member





NETWORKS AND INFORMATION
INTEGRATION

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

6000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-6000

JUL 21 2010

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Senate Report 111-35 accompanying the Defense Appropriations Act for FY10 requested the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration/DoD Chief Information Officer (ASD(NII)/DoD CIO) submit recommendations for closing the networked communications capability gap. The report's recommendations included leveraging and enhancing capabilities resident in legacy and commercially available radios and waveforms.

The Department continues to maintain support for future tactical radio programs of record (PORs), the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T), and the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS). These remain the future cornerstones to implementing a dynamic, scalable, on-the-move (OTM) network that will enable the warfighter to see first, act first, and win decisively. However, until these programs are fully fielded, current wartime operations require communications upgrades and enhancements that leverage commercial technologies and solutions to fill immediate capability gaps.

Many of these commercial technologies are interoperable and complimentary with our objective communications architecture. For example, commercial radios with Internet Protocol (IP) based waveforms are being procured and fielded to meet urgent operational needs, also they have the ability to interface with WIN-T and allow tactical edge users to access the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN). This "plug and play" capability allows the Department to leverage the best that industry offers in the near term while creating a modernization path to the future programs.

The Department is addressing the networked capability gaps by capitalizing on existing investments, maintaining backwards compatibility, and prioritizing open architectures and common interfaces and standards. The ability to provide critical operational capabilities while still maintaining an integrated tactical network requires that each investment be thoroughly scrutinized through systems engineering, integration, testing, and cost reviews. Commercial products are often used to provide solutions for

immediate operational needs; however, these products may not fully meet DoD requirements, be compliant with all DoD standards, and be proprietary.

In these instances, the Department accepts limitations that may include mission specific solutions, interoperability challenges, additional network management overhead, and less than full logistics support. However, these limitations do not compromise combat readiness. Instead, the Department balances the need to be agile in providing near term solutions to meeting capability gaps and managing an already complex communications architecture environment.

The Department continues to evaluate emerging technologies developed by industry and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) such as programs Mangle and Wireless Network After Next. We are evaluating these technologies to determine if they can provide capabilities which will transition to PORs and support DoD's overarching network construct with remaining focused on interoperability, security considerations, and best value.

Investment in network modernization is necessary and clarity of priorities for that investment is paramount to the successful delivery of improved network capability in a measured, affordable manner. Acquisition decisions based on aligning multiple ongoing tactical network PORs, along with capitalizing on available commercial developmental work, will target opportunities to integrate legacy and commercially available radios and waveforms as needed to fill immediate warfighter capability requirements.

The Department appreciates your interest in this critical area for deployed warfighters and looks forward to your continued support in providing this tactical communications capability. A similar letter is being provided to the other defense oversight committees.



Cheryl J. Roby
Acting

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member





NETWORKS AND INFORMATION
INTEGRATION

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

6000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-6000

JUL 21 2010

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Senate Report 111-35 accompanying the Defense Appropriations Act for FY10 requested the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration/DoD Chief Information Officer (ASD(NII)/DoD CIO) submit recommendations for closing the networked communications capability gap. The report's recommendations included leveraging and enhancing capabilities resident in legacy and commercially available radios and waveforms.

The Department continues to maintain support for future tactical radio programs of record (PORs), the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T), and the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS). These remain the future cornerstones to implementing a dynamic, scalable, on-the-move (OTM) network that will enable the warfighter to see first, act first, and win decisively. However, until these programs are fully fielded, current wartime operations require communications upgrades and enhancements that leverage commercial technologies and solutions to fill immediate capability gaps.

Many of these commercial technologies are interoperable and complimentary with our objective communications architecture. For example, commercial radios with Internet Protocol (IP) based waveforms are being procured and fielded to meet urgent operational needs, also they have the ability to interface with WIN-T and allow tactical edge users to access the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN). This "plug and play" capability allows the Department to leverage the best that industry offers in the near term while creating a modernization path to the future programs.

The Department is addressing the networked capability gaps by capitalizing on existing investments, maintaining backwards compatibility, and prioritizing open architectures and common interfaces and standards. The ability to provide critical operational capabilities while still maintaining an integrated tactical network requires that each investment be thoroughly scrutinized through systems engineering, integration, testing, and cost reviews. Commercial products are often used to provide solutions for


immediate operational needs; however, these products may not fully meet DoD requirements, be compliant with all DoD standards, and be proprietary.

In these instances, the Department accepts limitations that may include mission specific solutions, interoperability challenges, additional network management overhead, and less than full logistics support. However, these limitations do not compromise combat readiness. Instead, the Department balances the need to be agile in providing near term solutions to meeting capability gaps and managing an already complex communications architecture environment.

The Department continues to evaluate emerging technologies developed by industry and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) such as programs Mangle and Wireless Network After Next. We are evaluating these technologies to determine if they can provide capabilities which will transition to PORs and support DoD's overarching network construct with remaining focused on interoperability, security considerations, and best value.

Investment in network modernization is necessary and clarity of priorities for that investment is paramount to the successful delivery of improved network capability in a measured, affordable manner. Acquisition decisions based on aligning multiple ongoing tactical network PORs, along with capitalizing on available commercial developmental work, will target opportunities to integrate legacy and commercially available radios and waveforms as needed to fill immediate warfighter capability requirements.

The Department appreciates your interest in this critical area for deployed warfighters and looks forward to your continued support in providing this tactical communications capability. A similar letter is being provided to the other defense oversight committees.


Cheryl J. Roby
Acting

cc:
The Honorable Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon
Ranking Member